NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

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Farmer's and Gardener's Remembrancer.

[BY THE EDITOR.]

DRAINING LAND.—Concluded from p. 10.

In our former observations on this subject we treated principally of *open drains*, and shall now make some remarks on *covered* or *hollow drains*, their different sorts, modes of construction, &c. and conclude with directions respecting the subduing and cultivating of lands, which have been drained.

Although covered drains are not so frequently called for in this country as in the old and populous parts of Europe, still there are situations on this side of the Atlantic in which they will be found convenient if not indispensable. We find nothing on the subject of their construction and advantages more concise, perspicuous and pertinent, than the following from Deane's New England Farmer.

"To make a hollow drain, dig a channel between thirty and thirty-six inches wide at the top, and six inches, or the breadth of a spade, at the bottom, and three feet deep, giving it just descent enough to make the water run briskly. Fill it half full or more with small stones, thrown in at random, and cover them with a layer of straw, leaves, or the small branches of trees with the leaves on them; then fill it up to a level with the surface with the earth which is thrown out. Such a drain will not often choke or fill up, or need repairing. If the descent should be but just so much as to make the water run slowly, there may be some danger of its choking up and ceasing to run at all. But this danger will be greater or less according to the difference of soils. There will be no danger of it in a soil which does not easily dissolve in water.

"If stones be scarce, long faggots or fascines [billets of wood] laid in the trench, will answer as well, so long as they last, and being secluded from the air, will not soon rot. Some say they have known them to answer well for forty years, but this must only be in places where they are always kept wet. In situations exposed to wet and dryness, they perish in five or six years.

"If a plain piece of ground be too wet to be made fit for tillage by ridge ploughing, it should be made drier by hollow drains. If no lower place be adjoining where the drains may have an outlet, holes should be dug in some of the lowest parts of the plain, to examine what strata are under the soil. It is likely that a stratum of clay, or of some other earth not easily penetrated by water, is the real cause of the wetness of the soil. If you find it so, then dig through the stratum and below it till you come to loose gravel, sand, or something that will easily imbibe water: fill up the hole with stones and direct your hollow drains to it. It will serve for a perpetual outlet, and conduce much to the drying of the soil.

"The peculiar advantages of hollow drains are, that they will not need repairing, as they do not fill up; that no soil is wasted, or rendered useless by them; that a plough may pass over them to as great a depth as is necessary in any kind of tillage; and carts and other carriages are not obstructed or incommoded by them. So that these drains may pass across roads without detriment when the descent requires it. It is often found necessary to hollow drain roads to lay them dry, and found to be of great advantage."

Drains which are intended to be ultimately covered, may be dug with a plough, an ox-shovel, or scraper, &c. (as directed in our last No. page 9) and it will sometimes be found expedient to begin with those implements, and finish with the spade. Care should be taken in making drains of this kind that the depth be such as to allow a proper quantity of earth above the drain, that the materials in the ditch and the substances which cover it may not be injured by the pressure of the horses or cattle in ploughing, &c.

A variety of materials besides stones may be used for filling covered drains. We have mentioned billets of wood, and would now add that thorns bound in bunches, green bushes, either taken in the season when they are not in the leaf, or with the leaves stripped off, green willows bound in bundles, or laid as compact as possible, and even straw, either twisted into ropes as thick as a man's leg, or thrown in loose, may answer in lieu of better materials. The durability of the substances which are used for partly filling covered drains, is not of so great consequence in clayey soils as the probability of having a sufficient opening for the water to flow through; for clay generally forms an arch over such substances, which supports the superincumbent soil, and leaves a clear passage for the water below when they have decayed. Care should be used in covering the materials which have lodged in the water-course of the drain, that no earth be allowed to make its way, so as to obstruct the water. The loose straw, leaves, branches of trees, dressings of flax, &c. which intervene between the earth or soil which lies on the top of the drain and the materials which lie in the water-course, should be placed with a careful hand before the drains are filled up, and the drains should be filled up as soon as possible after they are ready for that operation.

Covered drains are likewise often made hollow, and are sometimes arched; at others regularly built with perpendicular sides, and covered with flat stones, but are too well known to need a more particular description. There is a kind of covered drain, which has been adopted in English husbandry, and may be thus described: A trench is dug of a proper and convenient width, not less than three feet deep.—When it is dug down to within four or five inches of the whole depth designed, shoulders are left on each side, and a kind of groove or channel is cut for the water-course at the bottom of the drain, or trench, below those shoulders. On the shoulders sods or turfs are laid in such a manner as to cover the grooves or water-course which lies below, and at the bottom of the trench. The grass side of the turf is placed down, and the earth is thrown over the whole. This kind is made at a small expense, and may continue hollow and discharge well for many years. It may be called the turf covered drain, and is not only a very cheap mode of constructing drains, but probably new in this country.

Another mode of making turf covered drains, still more simple, may be thus described: Turn up a deep furrow with a strong plough, clear the sod from the earth thus turned up, reduce it to about three inches in thickness, and then place it in the furrow from whence it was taken. The grassy side being placed uppermost there is a hollow beneath, sufficient to discharge a considerable quantity of surface-water, which readily sinks into it. This mode of draining is used in the sheep farms of the Cheviot hills in England, and is recommended by Sir John Sinclair. It would not answer, however, in lands exposed to the tread of heavy cattle, as they would be apt to push their feet through a covering of turf of no more than three or four inches. Perhaps however in a few years, the verdure would thicken and the sward strengthen over drains of this kind, so that there would be nothing to apprehend from pasturing the largest animals in fields drained by this method. It is almost too obvious to require any remark that the water obtained by draining may be employed to turn mills, or to irrigate lands, &c.

We have now completed our observations on the different kinds of drains, and the different modes of making them, and shall dismiss the subject with some remarks on the cultivation of drained land.

It is not necessary to dwell on the fertility of most drained lands. It is well known that swamps, marshes, and other low lands are commonly places of deposit for the lighter and more fertile parts of the soil washed from the neighboring hills. Many marshes are in fact intervale land, naturally too wet for profitable cultivation. Wet lands, which receive the wash of higher grounds of a tolerable quality, may be expected to be fruitful and worth going to some considerable expense for draining. A bog however on the top of a hill not overlooked by high ground, we should suspect of barrenness, and would not be at great expense for draining it without examining and analyzing the soil in various parts, and becoming satisfied of its fertility. But a drained marsh, which by the help of a sluice and gate, can be flooded at the option of the owner, with water which has washed the neighboring uplands, may be considered as inexhaustible, and perhaps had better be appropriated to the raising of hemp. That plant requires such strong land to produce it that it would need all our manure to raise it in great quantities on common upland. If the land is rich, not very dry, or water can be set back in the ditches in a dry time to within three or four feet of the surface, it will be quite an object to introduce Fowl Meadow (Agrostis stricta.) The value of this grass is too well known to need eulogy. Once introduced in land to which it is adapted, it will remain good for a great length of time, and generally yields from three to four tons to an acre of the best of hay. And this great and valuable product is yielded without

manure. It is said, however, to be difficult to cause the seed to grow unless on a surface which has been burned or ploughed over.

It is frequently best to let drained lands lie over one summer to ferment and rot, before any attempt to cultivate them. Flooding them completely in the winter, and drawing the water quite off rather late in the spring, will likewise greatly expedite the business of rotting the sod.

Burning the moss from drained land is a practice strongly recommended by some writers, and as strongly reprobated by others. Mr. Elliot says, "it is common in swamps to find the moss two or three feet deep—but when the water is drawn off by ditches, the moss will grow so dry that in a hot summer season it will burn quite down to the ground. To burn this or any other trash that you would consume upon the ground, set fire to it when the weather is quite clear, the sun hot, and a strong southerly wind blows, which makes fire rage more fiercely and do much more execution than a northerly or westerly wind. In a northerly wind the air is thin and light, so that the fire is not strongly compressed: the most heavy south wind prevents the dissipation of the fire, and renders it more compact. Thus we see a smith swab and wet his coals, by which means the heat is greatly increased. Whether this reasoning be just or not, the fact is certain, and this is the chief concern of the farmer."

Burning the moss and other vegetable substances of a swamp or bog may sometimes be expedient, but it causes a great waste of matter which is capable of becoming good manure or food for plants. If it is possible to subdue the tract by other means, burning should be avoided. If a farmer has a small piece of marshy land, consisting of mud, peat or moss, he may as well in many instances transport, from time to time, these substances into his barn yard and hog pen, to receive the liquid manure of his cattle, swine, &c. and to form composts with dung, for which they afford excellent materials. And while he thus digs out a slough, bog or morass, he may perhaps be forming an useful water pond for his cattle. A spot of this kind, which has for ages received the wash of adjacent land, and formed a lodgment for fallen leaves, &c. may prove a *mine of manure*, very valuable to the farmer who knows how to appreciate its benefits. Scooping out a part of such a slough, will, perhaps, so far drain the rest that foul meadow grass, or some other valuable product, may be made to grow on it.—Thus the cultivator may at the same time procure a rich material for compost, form a pond for watering his cattle, and drain the ground in its vicinity.

We have now completed, for the present, our remarks on this important branch of husbandry. We hope we have suggested some useful ideas which were not before familiar to every farmer who may have occasion to drain and cultivate the kind of land of which we have treated.—The modes of making Turf-covered Drains in particular, were new to us, till we began the investigations preparatory to penning this article. We hope that in this part of the essay, at least, we may have communicated some ideas which may prove *new* as well as useful to some of our readers. To those who complain that our essays want novelty, we would reply, that under the head "Remembrancer," we aspire to nothing more than to *put the rural economist in mind of what it is presumed he knew before*, but which, in the hurry of business, may have escaped his attention. We are perfectly sensible that practical farmers might suggest many important amendments and improvements to our observations on this as well as other branches of the important art to which our paper is devoted; and we hope our doing what we can may induce others more able to perform more than we can, by way of adding to the public stock of agricultural knowledge.

FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS RELATING TO AGRICULTURE & DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

ON FATTENING FOWLS, TURKIES, &c.

R. Weston, Esq. an English writer of reputation in a work entitled Tracts on Practical Agriculture and Gardening has the following observations on this subject, which may be worth the attention of those who wish to find an early, and of course a profitable market for poultry.

"Boil some rice in water, gently, till it be plumped up and very tender; add about two ounces of very brown sugar to every pound of rice, just before it be boiled enough; let the fowls be fed with it three times every day; in ten or twelve days they will be fat, but if they were in good condition when put up to fatten, they will be ready in seven or eight days; they must, by no means, have any water given them: in summer, too much rice must not be boiled together, because of its soon turning sour; nor is milk so good for that reason, as water only; besides, the milk is very liable to make the rice burn to the pot.

"Frequently offal-rice is to be bought very cheap of the grocers, in the city. The rice causes the flesh to be remarkably white, and to have a fine delicate flavor."

The Complete Farmer observes, that "if fowls are fed with buck wheat, or with hemp seed, it is said they will lay more eggs than ordinary; and buck wheat, either whole or ground, made into a paste, which is the best way, is a grain that will fatten fowls or hogs very speedily; but the common food used is barley meal, with milk or water; but wheat flour moistened is best."

Indian corn boiled or made into paste or hasty pudding, would, no doubt, answer as good a purpose as rice or any other food; but, we believe the addition of something sweet, such as molasses, or maple sugar, or probably boiling with the grain a portion of corn-stalks, red beets, ripe pumpkins or squashes, or something which would sweeten the food, might quicken the process of fattening. Boiled or steamed potatoes are said to make an excellent food for poultry.

For fattening ducks and geese, Mr. Weston gives the following directions:—"Mix some ground malt with warm water, or rather skimmed milk, and feed your geese and ducks with it three times a day, at the same time let them have plenty of clean water, as it causes them to drink freely; two gallons of malt are in general more than enough for a young goose, and less than one is sufficient for a duck; it has an amazing quality in fattening them when young, and causes the flesh to be very delicate; when they are old they readily fatten with almost any food; but for the flavor it gives the flesh, I should always prefer malt before any thing else. Before they have been put up to fatten, I have given both ducks and geese plenty of lettuces, which they are exceedingly fond of; they are very cheap food for them, as they need then have but little corn."

In speaking of fattening turkeys, the same author has the following observations:

"The method here proposed, may appear to some persons very odd, and scarcely to be credited; but having frequently *practised it*, I can assert the truth of it.

"Pitch on such turkeys as are in tolerable good condition; to prepare them for being killed about the sixteenth day, give them every morning about the time when they have just eaten their corn, a walnut, the bitter husk of which only shall have been first taken off, (for the shell must not be cracked, lest the rough edges tear their throats;) pick out the walnuts according to the size of the turkey; on the second morning give them two; on the third, three; on the fourth, four; on the fifth, five; on the sixth, six; on the seventh, seven; and continue to give them seven for two days,—then decrease the quantity, and give them on the ninth day only six; on the tenth, five; on the eleventh, four; on the twelfth, three; on the thirteenth, two; on the fourteenth, one; then put them up, and after making them fast for one day, kill them.

"They are to continue in the yard, with the other fowls, all the time; but about the fourth or fifth day they will have little relish for any corn, but rather choose to retire into some warm corner, and there set down; therefore, there should be a shed for that purpose open to the south.

"This method takes exactly fifty-six walnuts for each turkey, and I have scarce ever found it necessary to have it altered; but their being continued to have seven walnuts for two, three or four days, makes no great difference, and a little experience will soon teach each person that part of the practice. The reason for not giving them more at first, is to use the stomach of the fowl to them by degrees. If the walnuts be rubbed with a piece of butter or hog's lard, they slip down the easier.

"The time I have had turkeys fed in this manner, has been from October to January, and they have always succeeded very well; the effect the walnuts caused on the flesh was to make it of a fine silver white color, particularly the fat, and of a remarkably delicate flavor, quite superior to its usual taste when fed with any other kind of food.

"Were the attempt made to fatten fowls with walnuts, the shells should be cracked, and only the kernels given them. The fattening coops should always be set in a very airy dry place, and cleaned every day, else the smell of their dung will take away their appetite; whenever that should be the case, they should be taken out of their coops, and suffered to run about the poultry yard, to recover their health before they are put up again. If the coops be kept in a dark place, or covered with mats or cloths to exclude the light, the fowls will the sooner fatten, but care must be taken that there be a free circulation of air."

We do not pretend to say that it will be worth

the while for our farmers in general, amidst the multiplicity of more important concerns, to be at the pains to fatten turkies on walnuts.—But there are some persons who attend to rural economy merely for amusement, who may as well turn their pursuits into that channel as any other still less profitable and not more amusing. Besides, something may be learned from such processes, even by those who do not adopt them. Mr. Weston's beginning to feed his turkies with one walnut each the first morning, two the second, and so on, gradually increasing to a certain quantity, and as gradually decreasing after they had received a full supply, may teach us not to *gorge or surfeit* an animal when first put up to fatten. In this way we may bring on a fever, or otherwise injure the health of the poor thing which undergoes such operations. Swine, in particular, we believe are often injured by a sudden change from a very meagre to a very rich and plentiful diet; and when they have become partly fattened they require a less quantity of food, and food is perhaps more profitably bestowed on the latter stage of fattening; or as is better expressed in a late work by Mr. Cobbett, called Cottage Economy:—"When you begin to fat, do it by degrees, especially in the case of hogs under a year old. If you feed *high* all at once, the hog is apt to *surfeit*, and then a great loss of food takes place. Make him *quite fat* by all means. The last bushel, even if he sits as he eats, is the most profitable." The same reasoning, if not carried to extremes (for animals may be made too fat either for pleasure or profit) may be applied to turkies and other fowls.

We shall conclude our observations on turkeys, by some further quotations from Mr. Cobbett's work above mentioned.

"The great enemy to young turkies (for old ones are hardy enough) is the wet. In America, where there is always "a wet spell" in April,* the farmers' wives take care never to have a brood come out, until that spell is passed. In England, where the wet spells come at haphazard, the first thing is to take care that young turkies never go out, on any account, even in dry weather, till the *dew is quite off the ground;* and this should be adhered to till they get to be the size of an old partridge, and have their backs well covered with feathers. And, in wet weather, they should be kept under cover all day long.

"As to the *feeding* them, when young, various nice things are recommended. Hard eggs, chopped fine with crumbs of bread, and a great many other things; but, that which I have seen used, and always with success, and for all sorts of young poultry, is, milk *turned into curds.* This is the food for young poultry of all sorts. Some should be made *fresh every* day; and, if this be done, and the young turkeys kept warm, and especially *from wet*, not one out of a score will die. When they get to be strong, they may have meal and grain, but still they always love the curds.

"When they get their *head feathers* they are hardy enough; and what they then want, is, *room*, to prowl about. It is best to breed them under a *common hen;* because she does not *ramble* like a hen-turkey; and, it is a very curious thing, that the turkeys, bred up by a hen of the common fowl, *do not themselves ramble much when they get old;* and for this reason, when they buy turkeys for *stock*, in America (where there are such large woods and where the distant rambling of turkeys is inconvenient,) they always buy such as have been bred under hens of the common fowl; than which a more complete proof of the great powers of *habit* is, perhaps, not to be found. And, ought not this to be a lesson to fathers and mothers of families?—Ought not they to consider, that the habits which they give their children, are to stick by those children during their whole lives?

"The *hen* should be fed *exceedingly well* too, while she is *sitting* and *after* she has hatched; for, though she does not give *milk*, she gives *heat;* and, let it be observed, that, as no man ever yet saw healthy pigs with a poor sow; so no man ever saw healthy chickens with a poor hen. This is a matter much too little thought of in the rearing of poultry; but it is a matter of the greatest consequence. Never let a poor hen sit; feed the hen well while she is sitting; and feed her most abundantly when she has young ones; for then her *labour* is very great; she is making exertions of some sort or other during the whole twenty-four hours; she has no rest; is constantly doing something or other to provide food or safety for her young ones.

"As to *fatting* turkeys, the best way is, never to let them be poor. *Cramming* is a nasty thing, and quite unnecessary. Barley-meal, mixed with skim-milk, given to them, fresh and fresh, will make them fat in a short time, either in a coop, in a house, or running about. Boiled carrots and Swedish turnips will help, and it is a change of sweet food. In France they sometimes *pick turkeys alive* to make them *tender*; of which I shall only say, that the man that can do this, or order it to be done, ought to be skinned alive himself."

*This "wet spell" as frequently visits us in May as April, at least in the Northern States.

From the American Farmer.

SALIVATION OF HORSES.

Moorfield, (Va.) July 1, 1823.

Mr. Skinner—Some of your correspondents have expressed their opinions of the cause of the salivation of stock during the summer; as it affects horses in particular. As it seems to be a question of some considerable difficulty, and as there are a variety of conflicting sentiments upon the subject, I will submit to you my opinion also; having repeatedly observed its effects, and as often endeavoured to ascertain the cause.

The supposition that appears to me most probable, is, that it is produced by the mould on the grass, to which it is extremely subject. An attentive observer may, about sunrise, frequently perceive streaks of blue mould on the grass, and by reviewing it more closely with a magnifying glass, he can distinguish two complete rows of mushrooms, or fungi, one on each edge of the spear grass. As the sun rises over the horizon, he discovers these to ripen, open at the extremity, and expose a small cluster of four or five seeds, after which they soon disappear. About this period the blade is destroyed, and it becomes visible by the grass becoming dry—the mould is not so easily discovered in clover as in spear grass; the former resembling it in color more than the latter. I have for some time been impressed with the belief, that the salivation of stock is caused by their feeding upon this mould, or rather the grass, after the fungus had matured; and I have been almost confirmed in my opinion by the result of a practice we have pursued of confining our labouring horses on newly mowed meadows, from which the old grass is entirely removed. By adopting the above course, the salivation is effectually prevented, or at least considerably abated. In addition to the above practical proof, I have observed that our brood mares and younger horses, which are generally pastured upon our most barren lands, where the grass is not so luxuriant in its growth as to produce the mould, are scarcely ever affected with the above mentioned malady.

Respectfully your's,

ABEL SEYMOUR.

☞ This subject really demands the fullest investigation. Is it not an evil of comparatively *modern date?* Is it not aggravated by wet weather, when vegetation is more luxuriant? Why is it produced by second crop clover hay, and not by first? Do not neat cattle and other ruminating animals suffer with it, although the effect is not exhibited by salivation, as in the case of horses? We ask this question because the editor is now in his native Calvert County, where he has been struck with the extraordinary low condition of neat cattle, both cows and oxen. He never saw weather more favorable, or grass more abundant in the pastures, and yet the cattle as well as horses, are extremely reduced in flesh, while the latter only are slabbering at a degree that one would suppose would exhaust them unto death.—*Ed. Amer. Farmer.*

A burlesque upon Duelling was practised at Chelmsford one evening last week; the parties were a Master Carpenter and a learned gentleman of the *Comb*, who has recently removed a Latin inscription from over his door, which conveyed a meaning too much the reverse of what he practises, "Always at home." A dispute arose, we are informed, between these two heroes, "which was the best beer—that which had undergone fermentation, or that which had not." The frequent tasting of both got the better of the senses of the disputants, and from high words they proceeded to practise high notions. Nothing short of pistols would suffice; they were procured, but the *Knight* of the *Comb* prefering powder to lead, so managed to bribe the seconds, that the deadly part of the charge was not introduced; whilst the *Knight* of the *Chisel* was not in the secret. To carry on the joke, the former feigned to lament (what both may one day regret in earnest) that he had not taken leave of his wife and family, and urged the necessity of a few minutes for purposes, *unfortunately* directly opposite to his intentions, after which the combatants took their ground in the room. The Carpenter having the privilege of firing first, his opponent fell, when at the instant, the better to keep up the farce, the lights were put out, the Carpenter received a cooling glass of water in his face, and both were left in the dark to reflect upon their folly.

The crops in Virginia, North Carolina, and the middle and eastern states are said to be unusually good.

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

Silver Lake, Susquehanna Co. Pa. Aug. 4, 1823.

DEAR SIR,

I have received and read the first volume of the N. E. Farmer. If the work shall be continued with the spirit and intelligence with which it has hitherto been conducted, it will be of great service to the farmers of the U. States. It is very gratifying to see that agriculture is becoming a fashionable pursuit among those who desire to mingle pleasure with profit—the *jucunda et idonea;* and that it is taking the rank in our country, to which it is entitled by its great national importance. Agricultural papers are very useful in aiding this, by the detail of well authenticated facts, to prove the best mode of culture; by the publication of scientific essays on the subject; and by making agricultural men acquainted with each other, urging them to perseverance in their labors, and shewing them the interest which is taken in the objects of their pursuit.

I perceive by your poets' corner, that you have not abandoned the muses.

Quo semel est imbuta recens, servabit odorem
Testa diu.

A taste which nature has planted deeply, is not easily lost. Indeed, when we met at our literary friend D's, many years ago, if I had been told that you would publish a work on Agriculture, I should have expected it to be purely Virgilian, that you would begin with Quid faciat lœtas segetes,* and that all your crops would be measured by dactyls and spondees.

It would give me much pleasure to contribute to your work, as you desire; but your pages are already well filled with original and selected matter; and you have among your correspondents many who are much better practical farmers than I am; and experiments, and their results, are what farmers seek. I might, however, suggest to them, as a very important part of their communications, the necessity of noticing the *kind of soil* upon which their experiments are made. A scientific farmer can tell, from a specimen of earth exhibited to view in his study, what crops would grow best on it, as easily as a geologist can say among what particular kinds of rocks certain metals are to be found; and a farmer without science, may easily learn to distinguish the different kinds of soils, which are designated by the relative proportions of their component parts. To plant in clay that which grows best in sand, or vice versa, is an useless expenditure of labor; and a little attention to this subject, would frequently prevent the loss of both time and money.

In No. 17 you have quoted from Judge Cooper's notes to Willich's Domestic Encyclopedia, that "there are many districts of Pennsylvania, perhaps the best pasture land in it, that do not contain a particle of lime stone. Such for instance as a great part of Luzerne, and the Beech Country, comprehended between the north east branch of the Susquehanna, and the south line of the state of New York and the Delaware river. There is no finer grass country."

The greater part of the "Beech Country" mentioned by the judge, constitutes now the county of Susquehanna, and deserves the character which he gives of it as a grass country. It receives its name from the prevailing timber; but that is considerably mingled with hemlock and sugar maple, and in less abundance with birch, ash, chesnut and cherry. The inhabitants are principally from the eastern states. The settlement has been very rapid. Fifteen years ago it was a wilderness. It is now tolerably well settled; but land is still cheap; that which is unimproved may be had from three to six dollars, and farms are sold at from eight to twelve dollars per acre. The country is remarkably healthy and well watered. The soil is a sandy loam generally about eighteen inches deep, incumbent on a subsoil which is formed of *extremely fine* siliceous sand and alumine, very compact, and here called "hardpan;" a name, I believe, of N. England origin, for I do not recollect to have heard it elsewhere. This kind of subsoil is found in Pennsylvania wherever the beech, maple and hemlock are the prevailing kinds of timber, and its power of retaining water, is a great cause of the kinds of timber which grow on it, as well as of its fertility as a grass country.

Sir John Sinclair prefers a porous subsoil, and considers a retentive one as injurious to the crops. This opinion is contradicted by the American Editor of the Code of Agriculture, who says that the finest grass lands in New England have only a thin coat of loam on a stiff clay; and that, on such soils, there is no loss of manure by filtration. Perhaps both parties may be right in their respective situations; for in many parts of England and Scotland, for which Sir John's work is particularly calculated, the farmer has to guard against excess of moisture, while in our country we suffer from the want of it. Col. Powel mentions (see No. 35 of the N. E. Farmer,) that "the English farmer wisely contends with the evils produced by too much rain, while the American husbandman should as anxiously guard against his most formidable enemy, drought." I believe this has not been sufficiently attended to by American farmers.

In our climate, a soil which is best adapted to absorb moisture, when resting on subsoil which prevents its filtration and waste, is the one best calculated for grass, oats, and broad leaved crops. It has been observed by one of the best informed English writers on this subject, that "in wet climates crops exhaust the soil less than in dry ones;" and that "the same quality of soil is more productive in a moist than in a dry climate." A difference equal to that between a moist and a dry climate, is made by the difference between a retentive and a porous subsoil; especially if he who possesses the former, shall, according to the advice of Col. Powel, in the tillage of his land, endeavor to protect the soil from the great exhalations occasioned by the sun of our climate.

As it would be useful to agriculturists to obtain analyses of different soils, which have been found to be peculiarly adapted to raising of particular kinds of vegetables, I send you an analysis of the soil and subsoil of our beech lands; and perhaps you may draw others from some of your correspondents. It is to be observed, that the soil and hardpan submitted to the tests were in the state of nature; that is, taken from a part of the land lately cleared of its timber, which had neither been ploughed nor manured. The soil was taken a foot below the surface.

	Soil or Vegetable mould.	Hardpan.
Silica,	67,6.	73,6.
Alumina,	7,6.	12,2.
Carbonate of lime,	1,	2,
Oxide of iron,	7,	7,4.
Vegetable and animal matter lost by calcination,	8,9.	4,2.
Magnesia,	6,2.	
	98,7.	99,4.
Loss,	1,3.	,6.
	100.	100.

It will be seen by the above that the soil is not quite, as judge Cooper says, "without a particle of limestone;" but that it contains a very small portion of lime. The hardpan appears to contain twice the quantity which is found in the soil; and as I have seen carbonate of lime thrown out of a well in this neighborhood, it is probable that there is limestone to be found deep in the ground. But this does not affect the vegetation.

It has been suggested by a friend, and I think with much plausibility, judging from the similarity of the constitutions of the soil and subsoil, that the former has been made from the latter, by the action of the frost, and extends to the depth which the frost penetrates in severe winters. This opinion is strengthened by the custom of masons in laying the foundation of buildings here, who never think it necessary to go deeper than to the hardpan. When the latter has been turned up, and exposed to the action of the air and frost for one or two winters, it is found to produce grass very abundantly.

As I believe there are some parts of the eastern states where the subsoil exists, I would be glad to be informed, through your paper, of the nature of the superincumbent soil, and of the crops which are considered best adapted to it.

I am, dear sir, your friend and servant.

R. H. ROSE.

From the Vermont Republican.

The usual method of making board-fence, is to put the posts firmly into the ground, and then attach the boards to them in a direct line. But to this species of fence there has ever been one grand and insurmountable objection, viz.—The posts in a short period will rot in the ground, and the fence becomes frail and decays. I have recently discovered a kind of board fence which completely obviates this material objection, and must beg leave to recommend it to the community at large. Perhaps around your gardens and near your buildings, where beauty or elegance is so far an object that you would prefer to build a new fence every six or eight years, than to have a crooked one, the ordinary board fence would better comport with your feelings. But around your distant lots where you have nothing but interest to consult, and where a permanent and lasting fence is required, the one I am about to propose is by far preferable. In the first place, it is the better way to cut the logs for your boards and posts in the summer, when the bark will peel, as it is ascertained that timber cut at this period, will last much longer than that cut in the winter—and an additional inducement to cut it at this period is the value of the bark, which, in case of the hemlock particularly, will amply repay you for the trouble of cutting and peeling. The logs thus cut, after drying until the ensuing winter will become light, and be carried to the mill with much more ease and

* What makes the harvest plentiful.

facility. Perhaps six or eight inches would be the right width for the boards, and the posts should be sawed about four or five inches square. After getting your posts and boards together build your fence crooked, or in the manner of "Virginia fence," (so called.) The posts need not stand more than two feet each way from a straight line, allowing your boards to be fourteen feet long. In this way you will entirely prevent the necessity of inserting your posts in the ground, and your fence will be abundantly firm and permanent. Instead of placing the ends of your posts upon the ground, I would recommend inserting beneath each post a thin flat stone. This will prevent any decay to which they might be otherwise exposed, by coming in contact with the surface of the ground. Fence of this description will undoubtedly endure twenty-five or thirty years—three times the period that the ordinary board-fence will last, when the posts are put into the ground. It can also be made I suspect, with less expense of timber than any mode now prevalent.

From the Somerset Journal, a paper printed at Norridgewock, Maine.

Coffee.—There are now growing, in full bloom, in gardens in this town, a number of fine COFFEE PLANTS. The seeds from which these plants sprang were raised in this place the last season, from a seed which was accidentally found among some raisins. Seventy kernels were produced from one seed last year, perfectly ripe; and we should judge that on a plant in the garden of Mr. Manly, there will be considerably over a hundred. The coffee ripens and comes to maturity in about the same time that Indian corn does. If one plant will come to maturity and yield in this manner, why will not any quantity?

From the United States Gazette.

An Agricultural Society has been formed at Sydney (Botany Bay) which promises much advantage to the territory. The interior of New Holland will ripen the orange, the lemon, the olive, that invaluable grain maize or corn, and similar bounties of nature. Some idea may be formed of the increasing number of respectable colonists, from the circumstance of eighty gentlemen having sat down at the first dinner of the Society, when upwards of 1500*l.* were subscribed to carry into effect the purposes of the association. An advertisement in one of the Sydney papers invites masters of vessels to pick oranges, for their sea stores, from the stores of a settler, at 6d per dozen. The same paper states that a house at Sydney is now selling tobacco *fully equalling the best American.* Those cultivators of the vine, who have selected proper situations, have every propect of being amply remunerated. A sample of wine made there received a silver medal from the Society of Arts. The wool of their sheep is said to be uncommonly fine.

Heat from Friction of a Solid and Fluid.—It may be remarked that the rapid rotation of the little mills, which complete the attenuation of the liquid mixture for paper before it passes to the tub, produces in it a very sensible heat, not at all due to the elevation of the temperature of the wheel itself by the friction of its axis, for it cannot be perceived by touching that part, but it is attributable to the blow of the fans of the wheels on the mixture, which they strike with much rapidity and violence. This is the first instance known to us, says M. Pictet, editor of the *Bibliotheque Universelle*, of heat produced by friction of a solid against a liquid.—*Ibid.*

M. Huerne de Pommeuse, member of the Chamber of Deputies, has published a comparison between the British and French Canals, in which he acknowledges, that his principal object in the first half of the published half volume, dedicated to English labors, is to stimulate the emulation of his compatriots, and to make them co-operate with government in the existing circumstances, where France has much to create, in this department. The editors of the *Bibliotheque Universelle*, in their account of this work, pleasantly observe, that the author's hope reminds them of a reply made to them in Tuscany, by a minister of state of great experience, to whom they extolled certain improvements elsewhere introduced, and which seemed to them capable of being introduced into his country: "Alas!" said he, "diseases communicate from people to people; but health, you know, is not contagious."—*Ibid.*

Canal Navigation.—The tread-wheel has been applied by M. Van Heythuysen to the propelling barges on canals. The object is to obviate the use of horses. The apparatus is made light and separable from the barge, and it is found that two men can propel a barge by it, at the rate of five miles an hour. The saving of expense of horses and track-roads promises to make this application of human power very valuable. —*Ibid.*

CURE FOR DYSENTERY.

Messrs. Editors—The following receipt is an infallible remedy for the Cholera Morbus, or Dysentery; and I think you would do well to make it known.

Take six cents worth of Isinglass, and simmer it down in about half a pint of water, on a slow fire, till it is all dissolved, and when done, add a little milk and sugar to make it palatable. Give the patient half a cup full immediately, and a spoon full every hour afterwards. Many, I can assure the public, have found it a sovereign remedy and a radical cure. I have never known it to fail in any one instance.—*Ibid.*

ON SPRINGS OF WATER.

An abundant spring need never be expected in any country that is covered to a great depth with sand, without any stratum of clay to force it upwards, as is the case in the deserts of Arabia, and immeasurable plains of Lybia. Neither are we to expect abundant springs in any soil that consists of an uniform bed of clay from the surface to a great depth; for, it must always be in some porous stratum that the water flows in abundance and it can be made to flow horizontally in that only, when it is supported by a stratum of clay, or other substance that is equally impermeable by water. Hence the *rationale* of that rule so universally established in digging for wells, that if you begin with sand or gravel, &c. you need seldom hope to find water, till you come to clay; and if you begin with clay, you can hope for none in abundance, till you meet with sand, gravel or rock.

From the Bellows Falls Intelligencer.

A root of Rye (the product of a single grain) has been shown to us, which had one hundred and seven stalks. It was from the farm of Capt. Wilson, in Saxton's village. We regret that Capt. W. cut the ears from the stalks before it was exhibited; because it prevents our speaking with certainty either of the quality of quantity of the grain. The stalks are, however, large; and this surely denotes that there was at least, an average result of grain. And it may not be an unfair inference, to say, that the remarkable thriftiness of the root indicates a more than ordinary productiveness.

Timber, by the process of charring, or burning the surface, may be preserved for an indefinite time, even though exposed to damp, or buried in the earth. The utility of charring timber used for posts or water works, is so evident, that we are surprised it is not more generally attended to. The most wonderful proof of the indestructibility of charcoal timber is given in *Watson's Chemical Essays*, where we are informed "that the beams of the Theatre of Herculaneum were covered with charcoal, by the burning lava which overflowed that city; and during the lapse of 1,900 years, they have remained as entire as if they had been formed but yesterday. This property was well known to the ancients, as the famous temple of Ephesus was built on piles charred to preserve them from decay; and some years ago, piles were found in the Thames, charred, in a perfect state of preservation, in the very spot were Tacitus relates that the Britons drove in piles, to prevent the attack of the fleet of Julius Cæsar."

Steel.—The Society of Encouragement at Paris has decreed a gold medal to M. Pradier, who has brought his steel instruments to the highest degree of perfection. He has discovered the valuable art of rendering steel very hard, and at the same time elastic. His steel blades can be bent double, and are yet so hard as to cut *iron*, without any injury whatever to the edge, however fine and thin it may be. This experiment was many times repeated by M. Pradier, in presence of the committee, and always with success.

Professor Gmelin, is said to have discovered, in clink-stone lava, ammonia, which is disengaged by distillation.

For Watch Makers.—Oil used for diminishing friction in delicate machinery, should be free from all acid and mucilage. The following is the process for procuring it in its most pure state. Put into a mattrass or glass flask a portion of any fine oil, with seven or eight times its weight of alcohol, and heat the mixture almost to boiling; decant the clear upper stratum of fluid, and suffer it to cool; a solid portion of fatty matter separates, which is to be removed, and then the alcoholic solution evaporated in a retort or bason, until reduced to one fifth its bulk. The fluid part of the oil will be deposited. It should be colourless and tasteless, almost free from smell, having the consistence of white olive oil, and not easily congealable.

Although the following receipt has been already published in the New England Farmer, vol. i, page 3, we give it again at the request of some friends, to oblige new subscribers, not in possession of that volume, and to show our opinion of its utility. We have it from good authority that several persons have succeeded in making most excellent wine, by following *exactly* the prescriptions of this receipt; and some persons who have tried a number of different modes of making this kind of wine, have told us that the method here laid down is much preferable to any with which they are acquainted. We presume that the currant wine vintage is not yet passed by in some places within the limits of the circulation of our paper, and hope this formula may yet be of use to some of our readers the present season.

From Carey's American Museum.

RECEIPT FOR MAKING CURRANT WINE.

Gather your currants when full ripe; break them well in a tub or vat, (some have a mill constructed for the purpose, consisting of a hopper, fixed upon two lignumvitæ rollers) press and measure your juice, add two thirds water, and to each gallon of that mixture, (i. e. juice and water) put three pounds of muscovado sugar, (the cleaner and drier the better; very coarse sugar first clarified, will do equally as well,) stir it well till the sugar is quite dissolved, and then turn it up. If you can possibly prevent it, let not your juice stand over night, as it should not ferment before mixture.

Observe that your casks be sweet and clean, such as never had either beer or cider in them, and if new let them be first well seasoned.

Do not fill your casks too full, otherwise they will work out at the bung, which is by no means good for the wine; rather make a proportionable quantity over and above, that after drawing off the wine you may have a sufficiency to fill up the casks. Lay the bung lightly on the hole to prevent the flies &c. from creeping in. In three weeks or a month after making, the bung hole may be stopped up, leaving only the vent-hole open till it has fully done working, which generally is about the latter end of October. It may then be racked off into other clean casks if you please; but experience seems to favor the letting the wine stand on the lees till spring, as it thereby attains a stronger body, and is by that means in a great measure divested of that sweet luscious taste, peculiar to new made wine; nay, if it is not wanted for present consumption, it may without any damage stand two years on the lees.

When you draw off the wine, bore a hole, an inch at least above the tap-hole, a little to the side of it, that it may run clear off the lees.—The lees may either be distilled, which will yield a fine spirit, or filtered through an Hipocrates' sleeve and returned again into the cask. Some put in spirits, but I think it not advisable.

Do not suffer yourself to be prevailed on to add more than one third juice as above prescribed, in hopes that the wine may be richer, for that would render it infallibly hard and unpleasant, nor yet a greater proportion of sugar, as it would certainly deprive it of its pure vinous taste.

By this management you may have wine, letting it have a proper age, equal to Madeira, at least superior to most wines, commonly imported, and for much less money.

In regard to the quantity of wine intended to be made, take this example, remembering that twelve pounds of sugar are equal to a gallon of liquid.

For instance, suppose you intend to make 30 gallons, then there must be,

8 gallons of juice,	24 gallons of mixture,
16 of water,	3 multiplied by,
—	—
24 gallons of mixture,	12)72
6 gallons from sugar.	equal to 6 gallons of liquid.
—	
30 gallons.	

and so proportionably for any quantity you please to make.

The common cider presses, if thoroughly clean, will do well in making large quantities: the small hand-screw press is most convenient for such as make less.

N. B. An extraordinary good spirit for medicinal and other uses, may be distilled from currant juice by adding a quart of molasses to a gallon of juice, to give a proper fermentation.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1823.

MR. ROSE'S COMMUNICATION.

We hope our friend will pardon us for giving his letter (published in this day's paper, p. 20,) at full length, without his licence, either expressed or implied. A good patriot may sometimes be allowed to trespass a little on private property, provided he can thereby benefit the public; and by parity of reasoning, a private letter may be published without the consent of the writer, if it contain information which may prove useful to the community. That part which relates to our own "reminiscences," could not well be separated from the rest without injuring the texture of the article. We therefore concluded to publish the whole instead of "an extract of a letter," &c. according to immemorial usage, although we are sensible that we run some risque of being accused of egotism in thus obtruding upon our readers, some allusions to a portion of our editorship's biography, our propensity to poetizing, and other things which have no connexion with what should be the objects of an agricultural paper.

We perfectly agree with Mr. Rose in the opinion that *the kind of soil* on which agricultural experiments are made, ought to be specially noted in giving accounts of such experiments; otherwise we shall often derive no benefit from details of agricultural processes. Every farmer can give a description of his soil accurate enough for most purposes, without any knowledge of chemistry, though he may not be able to state the exact *proportions* of clay, sand, lime, &c. of which it is composed. We intend shortly to give in our paper the different modes of analysing soils recommended by writers on husbandry, which may enable the owner of land to tell with sufficient exactitude for all possible practical purposes, what kind of land, chemically considered, his farm, or any part of it, is composed of. He may then adapt his plants to his soil, instead of attempting to force his soil to bear plants to which it is not adapted.

We hope that our New England cultivators will be induced to copy Mr. Rose's example, and send us the results of their analyses of soils in different parts of the country. Those who wish for information relative to the mode of conducting processes of this kind, may find a method, taken from the writings of Mr. John Young, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, entitled "*Letters of Agricola*," and republished in our first volume, page 91. This article we intend to publish again for the benefit of new subscribers who may not be in possession of our first volume, together with other means for obtaining the same end (as before intimated) copied from other approved authors.

Some philosophers, if we mistake not, have maintained that lime is exclusively the product of animalization, and Judge Cooper's assertion (mentioned by Mr. Rose, and quoted in No. 17, vol. i, of our paper,) that some fine pasture lands in Pennsylvania contain not a particle of lime would seem to corroborate that theory; for if there is no lime in the soil, and the bones of animals fed upon it contain lime as usual, it must follow, we believe, that animal organization can change other substances into lime.—But Mr. Rose's analysis overturns this theory, so far as it depends on Judge Cooper's assertion that no lime is to be found in the soil of this fine grazing country. We have the highest respect for Judge Cooper's authority on scientific topics, but cannot carry our reverence so far as to suppose him altogether exempted from error, especially as regards facts, which he probably derived from the testimony of less accurate observers.

We hope that Mr. Rose's communication will prove what we farmers call an *entering wedge*, for other articles from the same source. We know him to be abundantly able, and hope he will be no less willing to contribute to the objects of our establishment the fruits of a highly cultivated intellect, united, we believe, with an acquaintance with the art as well as the science of agriculture.

COMMUNICATED.

Simeon Draper, Esq. of Brookfield, has a calf of the Holderness breed, which weighed at three months old 332 pounds, and at four months, July 14th, 440. The gain for the last month is over 3 1-2 lbs. per day.

Brookfield, July 19. A SUBSCRIBER.

A lemon raised by Mr. Adam Price, at Burlington, N. J. measuring 12 inches in circumference and weighing 14 ounces, has been shewn in New-York. The tree from which it was gathered had on it at one time this season above 150 lemons, many of which were nearly as large as the above.

The industrious Mr. Osgood, of South Salem, is now gathering in his currant vintage. He will make about 1000 gallons of wine this season. His wine has sometimes sold at the South for $3 a gallon.—*Salem Gaz.*

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

Mr. Editor—I think there is an error in a recommendation given in your paper of the 12th July, carefully to pick from loamy soil all the stones as far as it could be done. The object should be directly the reverse.

I was in the habit of having the stones picked from light and loamy soil in this careful way, under the idea that it was beneficial, and considering them as worse than useless and troublesome. An excellent practical farmer in my neighborhood, suggested to me that I was in an error, observing, that he picked no stones from light or loamy soil, except such as the roller, at laying the ground down, would not press level with the earth, and that he thought it would be well if even these were sunk in the soil by labor.

I have so practised, and am well convinced that both utility and economy are promoted by small stones being covered and intermixed in the soil. The following are some of the reasons for my opinion.

1st. Stones absorb moisture and give it back to the earth in slow degrees, as is most conducive to the purposes of vegetation, and when most wanted.

2d. They keep land light and cool, which is to the soil we describe, a great advantage.

3d. It is thought that from the calcarious and other substances of which they are composed, they impart, as they are worn upon and ground up in culture, a fertility to the soil.

In fact, stones are of no other disadvantage, probably, to any soil, than when they incumber the surface. If taken from low soil and situations, you do an injury by sinking the ground which would be raised to advantage.

I am sensible I differ from a member of a respectable Society in a neighboring state; but I speak from some experience of my own, and what is of more consideration, from the judgment and opinion of those who have been reputed judicious observers.

I am yours, &c. W.

Dorchester, August, 1823.

FOREIGN.

The last news from Europe is from London to the 30th, and Paris to the 27th of June, and Gibraltar to the 4th of July. It should seem by these advices that the French troops are overrunning Spain with rapid strides, and almost without meeting with opposition. They entered Port St. Mary's on the 23d of June, to the amount of 4,000 foot and 500 cavalry. St. Mary's is nearly opposite Cadiz, distance less than three miles, from the nearest points of which Soult threw shell into the city in Bonaparte's war with Spain.

Andalusia is occupied by 20,000 men, of whom 5000 are cavalry, and 14 pieces of cannon. They formed two divisions which united at Cordova.

Gen. Ballasteros, according to French accounts, had been compelled to evacuate Valencia. His retreat, they say, was so precipitate, that he lost a column of 1500 or 2000 men, which had been despatched to Alcira.

The only hope now is that Cadiz will be able to hold out, and a few months resistance will do every thing for Spain, as the French must return across the Pyrenees before December, or submit to undergo a winter campaign.

An English paper states that it was reported in the last letters from Paris that the Spanish Cortes had proposed to the Duke of Angouleme, to give up the custody of the King, provided their personal safety shall be guarantied.

The London Courier states an opinion that Sir Wm. A. Court, British Ambassador to Spain, has been ordered to return home. Follow the King he cannot, for that would be to sanction the violence which has been offered in removing him; accredited to the Madrid Regency he cannot be, for that would be a virtual abandonment of British neutrality.

The Paris papers say that the garrisons of St. Sebastians and Santona, are reduced to the greatest difficulties, and must soon surrender, the men having only six ounces of bread per day.

A letter from Bayonne states that there are many reports at Madrid of an approaching arrangement; but even if the Cortes should agree to such a one it would remain to be seen whether Mina, Ballasteros, Villacampa and Morillo would subscribe to it, as it must be confessed that there are elements sufficient to continue the war, and that the French will want in that case an addition of 50,000 men, and large sums of money.

DOMESTIC.

Perkins' Steam Engine.—The New York Statesman says it is reported that an American gentleman in London has bought of Mr. Perkins the right of navigating the waters of the states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, for the sum of forty thousand dollars.

The Sea Serpent has been seen on the 6th and 7th inst. near Gloucester. At Sandy Bay Harbor he remained for some time visible, within fifty yards of the shore, and was fired at a number of times with muskets; two balls were seen to strike him and rebound. He was seen by as many as fifty people, being perfectly calm, with his head about two feet out of water, and his body visible only in parts or humps, with a space of about two feet between each. The inhabitants of Sandy Bay, who saw this monster, are desirous of withholding their testimony on the subject, as they conceive their reputation for veracity has been heretofore too much trifled with.

The country between Darien and Savannah, in Ga. has been inundated by rain, which commenced falling on the 22d July, and continued almost without intermission for 27 hours. The mail from Darien to Savannah was transported some distance in a canoe, while the stage horses swam along side. It is supposed that not a bridge, large or small, is left between Bryan Co. and Darien. At Baisden's Bluff, a large Academy had been swept off entirely into a gulf, and nothing but the roof was visible.

Gen. Warren's Sword.—The Belfast, (Maine) paper says, "we have recently received a number of documents tending to prove that Capt. Cornelius Dunham, of this town, purchased of a British officer's servant, at Halifax, the identical sword which Gen. Warren wore when he fell. The sword is now in the care of Wm. Davis, Esq. of Plymouth, Mass."

House of Industry.—The directors of the House of Industry, at South Boston, have appointed Mr. William Stone, of Watertown, Superintendant, with a salary of $500 per annum. The house having been made ready for the reception of tenants, forty-one persons were, on Thursday last, discharged from the Alms-House, for the purpose of being removed thither, but twenty-one of the number, thinking that if they must get a living by industry, they might as well labour on their own account, took an absolute discharge. The other twenty were transferred to the House in South Boston, and we are told, have found it a more agreeable residence, and the occupation less irksome than they expected. They are to be followed, we understand, by other tenants of the Alms House, the number of whom still remaining, is about 220.—*Daily Adv.*

A man named Joseph Danford, of Boston, while on a visit to the Navy Yard in Charlestown, on Sunday last, fell from the deck of a 74, now on the stocks, and was instantly killed.

Conviction of a Pirate.—Barbadoes papers have been received at Baltimore to the 15th July. A Court of Vice Admiralty was held at Barbadoes on the 14th, at which a man of the name of Johnson, was tried for and convicted of murder and piracy. It appears a Columbian privateer had captured a Spanish brig and put a crew on board with orders to proceed to Laguira. Johnson was one of these, and he and the prize master murdered at different times the whole of the crew except two. Johnson then fastened the prize master to the deck where he died in two days. On being asked at Barbadoes where the different persons of the crew were, he without hesitation answered, "I shot them."

The inhabitants of the village of Wooster, Ohio, were lately gulled by a "raw-boned athletic-made fellow," who offered to give them some pleasing experiments of the nature and powers of exhilarating gas. He collected a pretty numerous assemblage of both sexes, at the rate of 25 cents a pair. After many of the company had sucked and tugged away at his gas-bag till they were exhausted, without any effect, it all at once popped into their heads that he was a *yankee*; and he was accordingly taken before a justice and examined; he confessed that he was no chemist, and had merely got a gas-bag for the purpose of "raising the wind." While they were cogitating and planning some punishment answerable to his crime, he slipped through the fingers of the guard, and fled into a neighboring thicket, leaving his "bag and baggage" behind, and we *guess* he'll trouble them no more.

Salem Gazette.

☞The following numbers of the first volume of the N. E. Farmer are wanted at this Office, for which a generous price will be given, viz.—No. 14, 5 copies—No. 38, 2 do.—No. 45, 2 do.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE, &c.

[Revised and corrected every Friday.]

		FROM D. C.	TO D. C.
ASHES, pot, 1st sort,	ton.	130 00	
pearl do.		135 00	
BEANS, white,	bush	90	1 00
BEEF, mess, 200 cwt.	bbl.	9 00	9 50
cargo, No 1,		8 00	8 25
" No 2,		6 75	7 00
BUTTER, inspect. 1st qual.	lb.	11	12
" 2d qual.		9	10
small kegs, family,		14	16
CHEESE, new milk		7	9
FLAX		8	9
FLAX SEED	bush	75	78
FLOUR, Baltimore, superfine,	bbl.	7 62	
Genessee		7 37	
Rye, best		4 12	4 25
GRAIN, Rye	bush	66	70
Corn		57	62
Barley		68	70
Oats		37	
HOGS' LARD, 1st sort	lb.	10	11
HOPS, No 1,		12	15
LIME,	cask	1 00	1 12
OIL, Linseed, American	gal.	65	00
PLAISTER PARIS	ton.	2 75	3 00
PORK, Navy Mess	bbl.	12 00	12 50
Bone Middlings		14 50	15 00
Cargo, No 1,		12 00	12 50
Cargo, No 2,		11 00	11 50
SEEDS, Herd's Grass	bush	2 00	
Clover	lb.	7	8
WOOL, Merino, full blood, washed		55	65
do do unwashed		40	50
do 3-4 washed		45	55
do 1-2 do		40	45
Native do		35	37
Pulled, Lamb's, 1st sort		55	60
do Spinning, 1st sort		45	50
PROVISION MARKET.			
BEEF, best pieces	lb.	10	12
PORK, fresh		5	8
VEAL,		6	10
LAMB,		5	7
POULTRY,		10	14
BUTTER, keg & tub		13	14
lump, best		18	20
EGGS,	doz.	12	14
MEAL, Rye,	bush	75	80
Indian,		70	
POTATOES, new,		62	75
CIDER, liquor,	bbl.	2 00	2 75
HAY, best,	ton.	18 00	20 00

HARVEST HOME.

Written for Riley's Vocal Melodies, by S. Woodworth.

When mellow autumn yields
All her golden treasures,
Then those who dress'd the fields,
Partake of harvest pleasures.
This, lads, is Harvest Home,
Those who labor daily,
Well know 'tis sweet to come,
And pass the evening gaily.
Then let each heart beat light,
Here's no room for sorrow,
Joy holds her court to night,
Care may call to-morrow.

Now Labor wipes his brow,
Rest and plenty wait him,
Barn, cellar, rick and mow,
Are fill'd to recreate him.
Scythe, sickle, rake and hoe,
All are now suspended,
Like trophies in a row,
For future use intended.
Then let each heart beat light, &c.

Now gay Pomona's store,
Past exertions blesses;
Rich streams of nectar pour,
Sparkling from her presses.
Full goblets, streaming board,
Crown the farmer's labors;
These real bliss afford,
When shar'd by joyial neighbors.
Then let each heart beat light, &c.

From the New Hampshire Literary Journal.

MESSRS. EDITORS—In the dry and cold summer of 1816, in the latter part of June, I was informed that a well about three or four miles distant was frozen in such a manner, that no water could be obtained from it. On the fourth of July, with some others, I called to ascertain the fact; and we found it *completely frozen over*, and no appearance of water, except perhaps a quart in a small hole, which had been cut in the ice. On the 19th of the same month, I called again to examine it. The ice had now become detached from the stones, and fallen down to the water, which was lower than when the ice formed. The block of ice at this time was about the size of a common wash tub. On the 25th, I found it had all dissolved. This well is in the town of Lyman, in the county of Grafton, at the north-east corner of a house belonging to Daniel Moulton, Esq. occupied by Stephen Smith. It is situated on high land, 5 or 6 hundred feet above the level of Connecticut river, and about 3 miles distant. The depth of the well is from 12 to 15 feet; and from the surface of the ground to the ice was about 8. It was perfectly open the whole season, and exposed to the action of the atmosphere.

In the same town, and adjoining Connecticut river, is a plain, which, in its natural state was covered with pine and hemlock. This plain is elevated 80 or 100 feet above the bed of the river. In the year 1815, about fifteen or twenty acres of this timber was felled, and on the 3d day of July, in the following year it was fired, and burnt in such a manner that scarcely any small stuff was left. On the 10th day of the same month, I was passing across said plain, and the owner of the burnt land, who was at work thereon, showed me a log which he had just removed from its bed, and which was frozen down, about 4 feet in length, and 8 or 10 inches in breadth; I saw the ice cut up with an axe, and it appeared solid as in winter. There was nothing to shade the spot where the log lay, there being no standing timber within 30 rods of it.

These facts, which may tend to show the extreme cold of that season in this vicinity, are well known to many individuals; and you are at liberty to notice them in your Collections.

CALEB EMERY.

Lyman, N. H. July, 1823.

A TIGER IN KENTUCKY.

The Lexington, Ky. Gazette of the 17th inst. contains the following account of a strange animal which has been recently seen in that state:—

We learn from Russelville that a gentleman discovered an animal of alarming appearance, a few miles from town, and hastened to the nearest house where he was joined by three men, two of whom were armed with guns, and attended by a dog. The strange monster was again discovered, and while bayed by the dog, the two guns continued to fire on him at the distance of about fifty yards without forcing him to move from his stand: a furious look, and appalling brow frightened the two men without guns who fled to town. Experienced marksmen continued to fire, and on the twelfth shot the beast put off at full speed, marking his way by blood flowing from many wounds that it must have received. The dog was too much frighted to continue the pursuit, and the huntsmen dare not venture, although one of them was as fearless as Boone himself, and accustomed to the chase from early life.

When the news reached Russelville about forty gentlemen repaired to the spot, and had a full view of the ground. The print which the paws of this animal made in the earth corresponds with the account given of his great bulk by those who had an opportunity of viewing him at a short distance for several minutes; he was of a brindle color with a most terrific front—his eyes are described as the largest ever seen in any animal. We are well acquainted with the party engaged in the attack, and give the fullest credit to the account we have received.

The conclusion drawn is that the animal in question was a Tiger of the largest order from Mexico, and that it is like monsters of the deep, thought proper to wander into distant regions. There is nothing remarkable in his passing such a distance unobserved. Wolves have been seen of late years low down in the northern necks of Virginia, a distance of nearly 200 miles from the Blue Ridge, the supposed residence of those animals: they had to pass through a country of the thickest population unprotected by large forests until they arrived on the Potomac river where cedar and pine thickets shelter them from all future danger.

The above Tiger was seen a few days after braving a dozen shots and making its way into the state of Tennessee, and there is still a prospect of its being taken and the people gratified with a more correct description.

From the Philadelphia Gazette.

We all recollect the story of the Lacedemonian matron, whose joy at her countrymen's obtaining a victory, was so great, that she could not lament the loss of her children slain in battle. The following anecdote, extracted from Thacher's Military Journal, displays equal patriotism in conjunction with true paternal affection, and consequently places the American father above the Spartan mother.

"A venerable old man had five sons in the field of battle, near Bennington, and being told that he had been unfortunate in one of his sons, replied, What, has he misbehaved, did he desert his post, or shrink from the charge? No sir, says the informant, worse than that, he is among the slain, he fell contending mightily in the cause. Then I am satisfied, replied the good old man; bring him in, that I may behold him, and survey the darling of my soul. On which the corpse was brought in and laid before him. He then called for a bowl of water and a napkin, and with his own hands washed the gore and dirt from his son's corpse, and wiped his gaping wounds, with a complacency, as he himself expressed it, which before he had never felt or experienced."

The story is simple and touching.

Pleasure, like an over-fed lamp, is extinguished by the excess of its own aliment. But the lovers of pleasure are not always prudent, even upon their own principles; for we are persuaded that the world would afford much more real satisfaction than it does, if we did not press, and torture, and strain it, to yield what it does not contain: much good, and much pleasure, it does liberally bestow; but no labor nor art can extract from it that elixir of peace, that divine essence of content, which it is not in its nature to produce. There is good sense in searching into every blessing for its *hidden* properties; but it is folly to ransack and plunder it for such as the experience of all ages tells us are *foreign* to it. We exhaust the world of its pleasure, and then lament that it is empty; we wring those pleasures to the very dregs, and then complain that they are vapid.—*Providence American.*

Yellow fever.—The following circumstance is a remarkable instance of the non-contagion of the Yellow Fever. It is translated from the *Revue Encyclopedique* for January last:—A young Englishman, who arrived at St. Thomas's with a young and beautiful countrywoman whom he had secretly married, was attacked by the yellow fever. When the disease was at its height, and symptoms of inevitable death became apparent, the young woman, in despair, and determined not to survive the object of her affections, undressed herself *entirely* and placed herself by the side of her dying husband in bed, embracing his body. She remained for ten hours in this situation, and was with difficulty removed after he had breathed his last. She did not experience the slightest symptom of the disease.

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